

REMARKS

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 8 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the limitation “the same power network” lacked sufficient antecedent basis and was unclear.

Claims 8 and 12 have been canceled and claims 13-17 have all been amended in a manner in which it is submitted satisfies the Examiner’s rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. These claims have been amended to read “a power network”.

Claim Objection

Claim 17 stands objected to because of an informality in line 22. Claim 17 has already been amended to read “load following is able to be performed” in line 22 by the last amendment. This objection is therefore requested to be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Pub. No. 2002/0035497 to Mazereeuw et al. in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,469,954 to Maehara. Claims 8 and 12 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-17 were stated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.


Claims 13-17 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections as discussed above. In a telephone conference with the Examiner on November 6, 2006, the Examiner indicated he would reconsider the § 112 rejection if claims 13-17 were amended to read "a power network".

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIP-219-03).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gene W. Stockman", is written over a horizontal line.

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